Appln. No.: 10/686,996

Reply to Office Action dated 9/28/2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning at line 20 and ending at line 26, with the amended paragraph below:

As shown in Figure 1a, the addressing machine 1 comprises an envelope feeder 10 and a printing section 100. The envelope feeder 10 has a driving mechanism 16 for releasing one envelope 14 at a time from a stack 12 to the printing section 100. The printing section 100 has a driving mechanism 20 and a pair of pickup rollers 24_22 to move the released envelope 14 further along the moving direction 90. While the envelope 14 is moving along the moving direction 90, a plurality of print head assemblies 40 is used to print the printed items on the envelope 14.

Replace the paragraph on page 2, starting at line 28, and ending at line 30, as below:

Thus, according to the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a locking device for use in conjunction with a shaft for engagingly connected_connecting to a carriage, the shaft having a longitudinal axis. The locking device comprises:

Replace the paragraph on page 3, starting at line 16, and ending at line 20, as below:

when the cam ring is located at the second position, the clearance is aligned with the aperture on the cylindrical body, allowing the elastomer body to seat partially in the clearance, thereby reducing the frictional force against the shaft such that the eylinder cylindrical body can be moved along the longitudinal axis for adjusting the position of carriage along the shaft.

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Replace the paragraph on page 4, starting at line 8, and ending at line 10, as below:

Thus, according to the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a locking device for use in conjunction with a shaft for engagingly connected_connecting to a carriage, the shaft having a longitudinal axis. The locking device comprises

Replace line 29, on page 6, as below:

Fig. 5-7 is; a cross sectional view showing a lock nut.

Replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 23, ending on page 8, line 7, as below:

Figure 5 is a top view showing all the components in the locking body 310 are assembled to engagingly attach the carriage flange 252. As can be seen in Figures 12 to 14, the cam ring **360** has an inner diameter slightly larger than the outer diameter of the lock section 330 so as to allow the cam ring to rotate relative to the lock section about the longitudinal axis 222. The outer diameter of the flange 350 is larger than the inner diameter of the cam ring 360 in order to retain the cam ring 360. The carriage flange 252 has a circular opening 254, the diameter of the circular opening 254 is slightly larger than the outer diameter of the threaded section 320 of the locking body 310, so that the carriage flange 252 can be slipped through the threaded section 320 up to the lock section 330. As can be seen in Figures 8a, 9 and 10, the threaded section 320 has an anti-rotation slot-326 324, and the carriage flange 252 has a tab 256, protruding into the inner surface of the circular opening 254. When the carriage flange 252 is slipped through over the threaded section 320, the tab 256 is fittingly seated in the anti-rotation slot-326 324, such that the carried flange 252 cannot be rotated about the longitudinal axis 222 of the shaft 220 relative to locking body 310. As such, when the cam ring 360 is rotated about the longitudinal axis 222 relative to the locking body 310, it does not cause the carriage flange 252 to rotate.

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Finally, a lock nut **380** is used to keep all the components together as the components are assembled. The lock nut **380** is shown in Figure 7.

Replace the paragraph on page 9, starting at line 6, ending on line 9, as below:

Advantageously, a minor relief **366** is also provided on the inner surface of the circular opening **360** as such, when the operator rotates the cam ring **360** from the unlocked position as shown in Figure 13 to a new position as shown in Figure 14, the operator can feel that the locked position has been reached.